



Union City Police Department
34009 Alvarado-Niles Rd
Union City, California 94587
Voice • (510) 471-1365 Fax • (510) 471-5974

MEDIA RELEASE

1 As a part of a grant obtained by the Alameda County Health Department Tobacco Control
 2 Program, the Union City Police Department recently conducted an ongoing minor decoy program as well
 3 as other tobacco enforcement operations. These periodic operations serve as an effective tool to measure
 4 retailer compliance with State Laws that make it illegal to sell or provide tobacco products to anyone
 5 under the age of 18 years as well as smoke in bars or eating establishments.

6 As a part of this survey, minor decoys visited approximately 20 tobacco retail establishments to
 7 purchase tobacco products. These retailers were selected at random throughout the city. If a merchant
 8 sold tobacco products to the minor, appropriate enforcement action was taken immediately. A violation
 9 of this section of law is a misdemeanor, punishable by a \$200 fine for the first offense, \$500 for a second
 10 offense and \$1,000 for the third offense. Three Union City retailers were cited for furnishing tobacco
 11 products to a minor. The other retailers were contacted by an officer from the police department to
 12 acknowledge their compliance with the law.

13 In addition to decoy merchant operations, The Union City Police Department also conducted
 14 "shoulder tap" operations. Minor decoys approached adults in front of stores and asked them to purchase
 15 tobacco products. During the course of the operation, Six adults were cited for purchasing tobacco
 16 products for a minor. The adults who purchased tobacco for minors were cited for a violation of 308(a)
 17 PC. One adult was arrested and cited for petty theft.

18 Officers also conducted compliance checks with nine businesses to ensure there was no smoking
 19 within 20 feet of main entrances and exits as well inside the businesses. Of these nine businesses, no
 20 violations were discovered.

21 Officers also contacted 15 cigarette retailers and provided them information on the STAKE ACT
 22 which makes it illegal to sell to persons under the age of 18 tobacco, cigarette or cigarette papers or any
 23 preparation of tobacco, or any other instrument or paraphernalia that is designed for the smoking or
 24 ingestion of tobacco.

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PREPARED BY Sgt. Matias Pardo	DATE PREPARED 2/3/2010	TIME PREPARED 0001	APPROVED BY <i>Matias Pardo</i>
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